



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Partnered with University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) School of Law

**US ATTORNEY MURPHY TO PARTNER WITH
UDC SCHOOL OF LAW TO BOLSTER FEDERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT**

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today that the United States Attorney's Office has partnered with the University of Detroit Mercy (UDC) School of Law to create a first of its kind Environmental Law Clinic that will support the Justice Department's environmental enforcement mission while providing legal experience to UDC law students.

The Clinic, which will begin operation in January 2008, offers a unique opportunity to University of Detroit Mercy School of Law students to work with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan and the Environmental Enforcement Section of the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. The Clinic will be supervised by a UDC faculty member, Lynn Dodge, who is Director of the Environmental Law Clinic, and who has been appointed as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District, as well as attorneys in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Dodge is a former Trial Attorney with the Environmental and Natural Resource Section of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Participating students will be required to complete FBI background investigations before handling work with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Environmental

Enforcement Section.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Polluting our waterways and atmosphere is not only detrimental to others who use them, it can constitute criminal activity. Our office has traditionally played a strong role in protecting these important natural resources. The creative program I am proud to announce today will both benefit our environment and provide a top-notch litigation experience for student lawyers. I look forward to working with UDC on this unique project."

In the Clinic, students will assist in handling environmental enforcement matters referred from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or the U.S. Coast Guard. Under supervision of Prof. Dodge, the students will participate in litigating matters brought under such federal environmental statutes as the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act in federal district court. Under this relationship with the U.S. Attorney's office, the students will gain an in-depth understanding of how to litigate complex environmental statutes while obtaining an insider's view of the Justice Department and various federal agencies. The program will enhance the U.S. Attorney's Office's capacity to respond effectively to environmental cases by providing a dedicated resource in this enforcement area.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, the fourteenth largest such office in America, prosecutes civil and criminal matters on behalf of the United States of America and its agencies -- such as the Environmental Protection Agency -- in the 34 counties that make up the eastern half of the state. The office serves a population of more than 6.7 million Michigan residents and is comprised of approximately 100 Assistant United States Attorneys and a similar number of support staff. United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy was appointed by President Bush to his position on March 8, 2005, and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate three months later.

Inquiries or interview requests may be lodged with Public Information Officer Gina Balaya, 313.226.9758